UNITED NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/C.5/47/1
25 June 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session
FIFTH COMMITTEE
Item 112 of the preliminary list*

PATTERN OF CONFERENCES

Consolidated statement of scheduled special conferences for 1993

Report of the Secretary-General

INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 46/190 of 20 December 1991, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session and as appropriate to subsequent sessions, a consolidated statement relating to the number and costs of scheduled special conferences, bearing in mind the annual limit of five as set out in resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985 and endorsed by the Assembly in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986.

2. On the basis of requests contained in various draft resolutions, the General Assembly, at its forty-sixth session, was provided with statements of programme budget implications containing estimates of conference-servicing requirements at full cost for the following three special conferences to be convened in 1993:

(a) The United Nations Conference on the Indian Ocean, to be held at Colombo, Sri Lanka, for a period of 10 days (programme budget implications contained in document A/C.5/46/40);

(b) The United Nations/International Maritime Organization Conference of Plenipotentiaries on a Draft Convention on Maritime Liens and Mortgages, to be held at Geneva for a period of three weeks (programme budget implications contained in document A/C.5/46/66);

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(c) The World Conference on Human Rights, which was assumed, for costing purposes, to be held at Geneva for a period of two weeks (programme budget implications contained in document A/C.5/46/58). By its decision of 1 May 1992, the General Assembly later accepted Austria's offer to host the Conference at Vienna. 1/ The statements of programme budget implications are summarized below.

3. The annex to the present report contains a recapitulation in table form of these statements, showing the respective estimates of full conference-servicing costs broken down into pre-session documentation, meeting servicing, in-session documentation and post-session documentation. The costing for the conferences was based on figures current at the time the relevant statements were prepared. The full costing of any preparatory and regional meetings to be held in 1992, provided for in those statements, is also included in the present consolidated statement.

I. UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN

A. Requests contained in resolution 46/49

4. Under the terms of paragraphs 6 and 9-12 of its resolution 46/49 of 9 December 1991, the General Assembly:

(a) Decided to convene the first stage of the United Nations Conference on the Indian Ocean at Colombo in 1993 or as soon as possible, in accordance with the resolution and in consultation with the host country;

(b) Requested the Secretary-General to appoint the Secretary-General of the Conference at an appropriate time and to make all necessary arrangements, including the provision of financial resources for convening the Conference at Colombo, in consultation with the host country;

(c) Requested the Secretary-General to invite all States to participate in the Conference and other relevant bodies and organizations to attend as observers;

(d) Requested the Secretary-General to provide to the Conference all relevant documentation in accordance with paragraphs 48 and 49 of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean; 2/

(e) Decided that the Ad Hoc Committee would hold a session of five working days in 1992 to perform its preparatory functions for the various stages envisaged for the Conference.

B. Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean

5. The Ad Hoc Committee, acting as a preparatory body, held one session of five working days in New York from 18 to 22 May 1992. Related full costs of conference servicing were estimated at $283,500.

C. Pre-conference consultations

6. Pre-conference consultations will be held at Colombo for two days prior to the opening of the 10-day Conference in accordance with paragraph 12 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 35/10 C of 3 November 1980 concerning guidelines on arrangements for special conferences. In this connection, it is the understanding of the Secretary-General that, as host Government, the Government of Sri Lanka will defray the actual additional costs directly or indirectly involved in meeting at Colombo rather than New York, consistent with the provisions of paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985.

D. Conference

7. The Conference would require the provision of interpretation in the six languages of the General Assembly, translation of pre-session documentation of 100 pages (5 documents), in-session documentation of 125 pages (15 documents) and post-session documentation of 150 pages (1 document).

8. The related full cost of provision of conference servicing for the Conference, were it held in New York, is estimated at $570,100.

II. UNITED NATIONS/INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION CONFERENCE OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES ON A DRAFT CONVENTION ON MARITIME LIENS AND MORTGAGES

A. Requests contained in resolution 46/213

9. Under the terms of paragraph 2 of its resolution 46/213 of 20 December 1991, the General Assembly decided that a United Nations/International Maritime Organization Conference of Plenipotentiaries on a Draft Convention on Maritime Liens and Mortgages would be convened at Geneva during the first half of 1993 for a period of three weeks to consider the draft convention and to embody the results of its work in a convention on maritime liens and mortgages.

10. Moreover, under the terms of paragraph 3 of the resolution, the General Assembly decided that the following should be invited:

(a) All States, to participate in the Conference;

(b) All members of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), to participate in the Conference;

(c) Representatives of organizations that had received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate in the capacity of observers, in the sessions and the work of all international conferences convened under its auspices; these representatives would participate in the

Conference in that capacity, in accordance with Assembly resolution 3237 (XXIX) of 22 November 1974;

(d) Representatives of the national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in its region; these representatives would participate in the Conference in the capacity of observers, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3280 (XXIX) of 10 December 1974;

(e) The specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), as well as interested organs of the United Nations, which should be represented by observers at the Conference;

(f) Intergovernmental bodies in consultative status with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and IMO, which should be represented by observers at the Conference.

11. Furthermore, in paragraph 4 the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and the Secretary-General of IMO to make the necessary arrangements, within existing resources, for holding the Conference at Geneva, to submit to the Conference all relevant documentation, including the rules of procedure of the Conference, and to arrange for the necessary staff, facilities and services that it would require.

12. Lastly, in paragraph 5, the General Assembly decided that the languages of the Conference would be those used in the General Assembly and its Main Committees.

B. Conference

13. The full conference-servicing cost would be $1,439,000.

III. WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

A. Requests contained in resolution 46/116

14. In its resolution 46/116 of 17 December 1991 the General Assembly decided, in accordance with the decisions adopted by the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights, that the World Conference would be convened at Berlin, for a period of two weeks in 1993; 1/ that the Preparatory Committee would meet for three further sessions at Geneva, twice in 1992 and once in 1993, one session to last two weeks and the two further sessions one to two weeks each, if that was agreed to be necessary, and that no more than two meetings would take place simultaneously during the session of the Preparatory Committee and that no inter-sessional working group would be established; that, in accordance with the objectives and provisions of General Assembly resolution 45/155, regional meetings would be convened for each region that so desired within the institutional framework or with the

assistance of the regional commissions and that those meetings would be financed as part of the preparatory work for the World Conference. Moreover, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide the Preparatory Committee with all necessary assistance.

B. Preparatory meetings

15. The conference-servicing requirements for the second, third and fourth sessions of the Preparatory Committee are estimated at $2,100,600.

C. Regional meetings

16. It is envisaged that there would be four meetings in 1992 at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE). The full conference-servicing requirements are estimated at $572,400, details of which are provided in the annex to the present document.

D. Conference

17. As stated in paragraph 2 (c) above, for the purposes of the statement of programme budget implications, the venue of the Conference was taken to be Geneva, the site of the secretariat of the Conference. However, in the light of the General Assembly decision to hold the Conference at Vienna in accordance with paragraph 5 of resolution 40/243, it is understood that the Government of Austria, which issued the invitation, will defray the costs directly or indirectly incurred as a result of holding the meeting away from its established Headquarters.

18. In addition, the following assumptions are made:

(a) The Conference would meet for 10 days;

(b) It would be preceded by three days of pre-Conference consultations;

(c) There would be three simultaneous meetings in the morning and the afternoon for a total of six meetings daily. The languages of the Conference would be Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. There would be 500 pages of pre-session, 400 pages of in-session, and 150 pages of post-session documentation. On the basis of the foregoing premises, the estimated conference servicing costs relating to the pre-Conference consultations would be $49,300. Those relating to the convening of the Conference itself would be $1,327,100. Details of the costing estimates are provided in the annex to the present document.

IV. SUMMARY

19. As detailed above, the full cost estimates of the three conferences come to $3,336,200, as follows: the United Nations Conference on the Indian Ocean, $570,100; the United Nations/International Maritime Organization Conference of Plenipotentiaries on a Draft Convention on Maritime Liens and Mortgages, $1,439,000; the World Conference on Human Rights, $1,327,100. Preparatory and regional meetings and pre-conference consultations are estimated to entail additional costs of $3,005,800, as follows: Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, $283,500; Preparatory Committee of the World Conference on Human Rights, $2,100,600; regional meetings related to the World Conference on Human Rights, $572,400; pre-conference consultations for the World Conference on Human Rights, $49,300.

20. The statements of programme budget implications note that provision was made in the proposed programme budget not only for meetings known at the time of budget preparation, but also for meetings that would be authorized subsequently. They also state that, on that basis, it is estimated that no additional resources would be required under section 32 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, were the draft resolution(s) adopted. It should also be noted that the full cost estimates referred to above are based on the theoretical assumption that no part of the related conference servicing requirements could be absorbed from the permanent capacity of the Organization. Pending final details of the timing and venues of preparatory activities for the special conferences in the context of the rest of the calendar of conferences, however, actual scope for absorption of related costs will remain under review.

Notes

1/ The Government of Germany, which had offered to host the Conference in Berlin, subsequently withdrew its offer.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/46/29 and Corr.1).

Annex

RECAPITULATION OF STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS SUBMITTED DURING THE FORTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONTAINING CONFERENCE-SERVICING COSTS OF SCHEDULED SPECIAL CONFERENCES FOR 1993

Part I. United Nations Conference on the Indian Ocean

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Symbol	Subject-matter	Documentation: Meeting servicing	Pre-session	In-session	Post-session	Summary records	General services	Total
A/C.5/46/40	Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, New York	50.2	12.5	18.8	35.4	166.6	-	283.5
	United Nations Conference on the Indian Ocean, Colombo, Sri Lanka	127.2	117.5	154.2	171.2	-	-	570.1
	Total							853.6

Part II. United Nations/International Maritime Organization Conference of Plenipotentiaries on a Draft Convention on Maritime Liens and Mortgages

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Symbol	Subject-matter	Documentation: Meeting servicing	Pre-session	In-session	Post-session	Summary records	General services	Total
A/C.5/46/66	United Nations/ International Maritime Organization Conference of Plenipotentiaries on a Draft Convention on Maritime Liens and Mortgages, Geneva	643.0	361.0	176.0	179.0	-	80.0	1 439.0

Part III. World Conference on Human Rights

	Location	Date	Duration (working days)	Number of pages: Pre-session	In-session	Post-session	Language	Daily meetings	Conference-servicing costs (US$)
Preparatory Committee a/ (Second session)	Geneva	Spring 1992	10	200	200	70	6	4	792 000
Preparatory Committee (Third session)	Geneva	Fall 1992	10	150	150	70	6	4	672 600
Preparatory Committee (Fourth session)	Geneva	Spring 1993	10	150	100	32	6	4	636 000
Regional meetings									
ECLAC	Santiago	1992	5	100	50	20	3 EFS	2	122 000
ECA	Addis Ababa	1992	5	100	50	20	3 AEF	2	122 400
ESCAP	Bangkok	1992	5	100	50	20	4 CEFR	2	208 000
ECE	Geneva	1992	5	100	50	20	3 EFS	2	120 000
Pre-conference consultations	Geneva b/	1993	3	-	-	10	6	2	49 300
1993 Conference	Geneva b/	1993	10	500	400	150	6	6	1 327 100
Total									4 049 400

a/ The first session of the Preparatory Committee was held at Geneva from 9 to 13 September 1991.

b/ Cost estimates based on Geneva.